

NEWS RELEASE

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NEW USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE JOINS COLUMBUS USDA SERVICE CENTER

Columbus, Neb., November 30, 2004-The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development announces that Daniel Laska has joined its Columbus staff. Laska serves as the Rural Development Manager providing guaranteed loan, direct loan/grant and technical assistance in the area of business and economic development for Antelope, Boone, Burt, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Stanton, Thurston, Washington, and Wayne counties.

The USDA Service Center located at 3276 53rd Avenue in Columbus includes the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD).

"I am pleased to be part of the USDA team here in Columbus and I encourage the public to contact me with their business and economic needs," states Laska.

USDA Rural Development business programs include business and industry guaranteed loans, rural business enterprise grants, the intermediary relending program, and rural economic development loans and grants. Laska will also serve as the area contact for the additional programs USDA Rural Development offers.

Contact Laska at (402) 564-0506, email <u>daniel.laska@ne.usda.gov</u>. Visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/.

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